## **PATENTS**

## UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application: 10/674,236 Examiner: Nash, Brian D.

Filed: September 29, 2003 Art Unit: 3721

Inventor: Frederick E. Shelton, IV, et al. Atty. Ref.: END5126USNP.0517368

Title: SURGICAL STAPLING INSTRUMENT HAVING MULTISTROKE FIRING

WITH OPENING LOCKOUT

## AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Mail Stop Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed on January 24, 2008, please amend the above referenced application as follows:

Amendments to the specification begin on page 2 of this paper

Amendments to the claims begin on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 7 of this paper.